

Quarterly Progress Report

Project Name: Winter Ecology and Response of Gunnison Sage-grouse to Livestock Grazing in San Juan County, Utah (Gunnison Sage-grouse Project).

Utah State University Control Number:

Period Covered: September 2003-November 2003

Project Investigators: Terry Messmer and Sharon Ward

Agency Contract Number:

Agency Project Officer: Dean Mitchell

Submitted To: Dean Mitchell and Tammy Wallace

Date Submitted: December 2003 (covers September 2003 through November 2003)

In September 2003, the first rangewide Gunnison Sage-grouse Summit was held in Norwood, Colorado. I presented a brief account of my current and past research efforts on Gunnison Sage-grouse in Utah. Two people approached me later and requested my assistance in collecting insect data next summer based on the methods I used.

In October 2003, a SWOG meeting was held in Monticello to discuss additional research topics. Tony Apa and Mike Phillips from Colorado joined us in our discussion.

During September and October 2003, radio collared birds were located once per month by technician Dave Ketron. In addition, birds were located with aerial telemetry once per month by biologist Guy Wallace.

Two additional birds (juvenile males) were captured and radio collared in November 2003 near the Roring lek area.

There have been no mortalities; a total of 15 birds have functioning radio collars (6 females, 9 males).

Starting November 2003, winter locations will be obtained four times per month and will continue through February 2004. Thus far, birds have been located in Wyoming sagebrush in mixed flocks, same sex flocks and a flock of two birds. No measurable snow has accumulated yet in the study area. Three females associated with the Roring lek area have moved approximately eight miles to the Northeast. One of these females traveled this same distance last winter and stayed in the general vicinity for four months.

Vegetation characteristics to determine winter habitat use will be obtained on a subset of bird and random locations during this period.

Our next SWOG meeting is scheduled for January 14th at 1:00 pm in Monticello.